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Fall 2013 Disaster Behavioral Health Newsletter

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Disaster Behavioral Health Newsletter - Fall 2013

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Maine Disaster Behavioral Health

Helping Our Communities in Times of Disaster

Maine Disaster Behavioral Health, Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention
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207-287-3796 or 207-441-5466

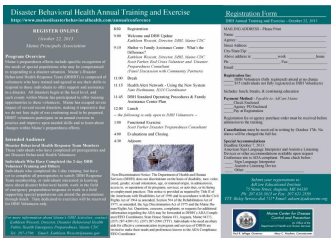
Maine Disaster Behavioral Health News

Fall 2013

This issue of the Disaster Behavioral Health Newsletter includes:

- Annual DBH Volunteer Training and Exercise to be held on October 22nd at the Maine Principal's Association in Augusta ME
- Vigilant Guard exercise and DBH volunteer opportunities to participate
- Southern Maine Regional Resource Center updates
- Fall 2013 Training Announcement – 2-day DBH training for individuals interested in becoming DBH Volunteers

For more information about Disaster Behavioral Health activities in Maine, training and volunteer opportunities, visit our website: http://www.mainedisasterbehavioralhealth.com/



Disaster Behavioral Health Annual Training and Exercise

Registration Form

DBH Volunteer Training and Functional Exercise- October 22, 2013

Register today at: http://www.mainedisasterbehavioralhealth.com/annualconference/

Thank you for your service to the Maine Disaster Behavioral Health program. The annual DBH Volunteer Retreat will be held Tuesday, October 22, 2013, 9am-4 pm. Please SAVE the DATE! This will be an all-day event to recognize your volunteer commitment, provide education through a panel discussion on working with community partners during and after a disaster event as well as an update on the new Health Alert Network (HAN) system. We will conclude with a Functional Exercise focused on establishing communications, respond to a disaster scenario, and coordination with community partners within a Family Assistance Center.

In preparation for the event, two HAN communications will be sent. The messages will go to your designated communication delivery type, such as your computer email or phone/s. The first message to be sent in mid-September will be an announcement about the DBH Volunteer Retreat with instructions about how to download two important documents, and the second will be sent two weeks prior to the event in October. Both messages require a response from you. The messages will provide directions about how to respond and action steps needed to complete your response.

The HAN system will continue to test and send HAN communications each month. Beginning in November, DBH Volunteers will receive a HAN notification each month and it will require a response from you. If you are not receiving HAN notifications or need to change your communication delivery type please login to the HAN to update your personal information. If you have trouble with the login or need assistance, please contact Tammy McLaughlin at tmclaughlin@adcareme.org

Thank you for your attention to these important communications, which will ensure a rapid response to a public health threat or disaster incident. To login, please visit: http://www.mainehan.org

Vigilant Guard (VG)

Vigilant Guard is an exercise program sponsored by US Northern Command in conjunction with National Guard Bureau. The program provides an opportunity for Maine State National Guard Headquarters, State Joint Task Forces, Maine Emergency Management, Maine CDC Disaster Emergency Preparedness, the County, International and local civil partners to improve communication and operational relationships in a domestic operations environment. This event is scheduled for the week of November 5-8, 2013, and will involve Emergency Operations Center activation at the State MEMA, and Maine CDC, to provide information and resources to specific drill locations throughout the state. Different scenarios may include a major winter storm, hazmat incident, disease outbreak and an active shooter simulation to be held at the Southern and Northern Regional Resource Centers, several Maine Medical Centers and Hospitals. These scenarios will be conducted on different days and times during this week.

Disaster Behavioral Health Volunteers are needed to respond in different capacities as part of the Vigilant Guard exercise, as trained DBHRT volunteers providing psychological first aid and emotional support to affected patients and family members. Volunteers could also be used as actors (ie. a patient affected by a disease outbreak or as a school participant in an active shooter simulation). Contact Kathleen Wescott for more information about potential DBH roles in this exercise – Kathleen.Wescott@maine.gov

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Maine Disaster Behavioral Health
http://www.mainedisasterbehavioralhealth.com/

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To download a complete copy with active links, please click on the image above.

Maine DBH Website
http://www.mainedisasterbehavioralhealth.com/

The Dialogue-SAMHSA's Disaster Technical Assistance (DTAC) Quarterly E-Communication
The Dialogue is SAMHSA DTAC's quarterly electronic newsletter that provides practical and down-to-earth information for DBH coordinators, local service providers, Federal agencies, and nongovernmental organizations. The Dialogue is distributed via SAMHSA's email updates, which can provide you with the latest news about publications, programs, statistics, and data reports. To subscribe to The Dialogue, please go to SAMHSA's homepage http://www.samhsa.gov and enter your email address in the "Mailing List" box on the right, then select the box for "SAMHSA's Disaster Technical Assistance newsletter: The Dialogue.

SAMHSA DTAC Discussion Board
SAMHSA DTAC continues to offer this online forum for discussing disaster behavioral health issues, sharing lessons learned, and posting helpful resources. To become a member, visit http://disaster.discussion.samhsa.gov/register.aspx and complete the brief registration process. Within 2 business days, you will receive your login ID and password via email, along with further instructions on how to access the board.

for Health Emergency Preparedness Updates

Scheduled to Feel Worse MR, RN, CMHT (fscott@smrc.org)

SMRRC will be having more frequent Regional Healthcare Coalition meetings, which now include the York County Disaster Planning Group. Below is a listing of some upcoming monthly meeting dates.

- 10/10/2013 – 8a-12noon, Location: Elks Club, Bath
  Topics: regional response planning
- 11/14/13 – 8a-12noon, Location Elks Club, Saco
  Topics: continuity of operations, disaster recovery for organizations/regions

(for a complete listing of dates / topics contact Paul Weiss at (pweiss@smrc.org)

In addition, SMRRC recently helped host the first kickoff meeting of our new Cumberland County Medical Reserve Corp (MRC). This MRC will focus on 4 major areas: 1) staff at Medical Alternate Care Sites; 2) Emergency Shelter "FAST" team (Functional Needs Assessment Team); 3) staff at Emergency Flu clinics; 4) staff at Emergency Points of Dispensing (PODS) for the City Readiness Initiative and the Strategic National Stockpile. SMRRC will be working with Cumberland County Emergency Management Agency on next meetings and also to train MRC staff. Part of this training will be Disaster Behavioral Health and Psychological First Aid. These trainings will be in person and potentially be augmented online with our Moodle website.

SMRRC just launched our online website for training. It uses Moodle as the basis for doing online trainings. We will be posting new courses on this platform, starting with some basic ICS courses.

SMRRC will be participating in the fall Vigilant Guard statewide exercise. We will be coordinating response from several hospitals in our region and their involvement, which will include patient surge and Mass Casualty incident (MCI).

Visit the SMRRC website at: http://www.smrrc.org/

Fall 2013 Disaster Behavioral Health Volunteer Trainings

November 20-21, 2013 – Sugarloaf, Carrabassett Valley
December 4-5, 2013 Baxter Park Inn, Millinocket

Building our DBH team also involves encouraging colleagues and friends to take the training needed to become DBH Volunteers. More information and registration available at: http://www.mainedisasterbehavioralhealth.com/dbhcriticalresponse/

DBH Volunteer Exercise Committee

Disaster Behavioral Health Volunteers are also needed to serve on a Disaster Exercise Committee, to help coordinate and implement a DBH-sponsored emergency preparedness and response full-scale drill. This activity is separate from our involvement in the Vigilant Guard exercise referenced on page 1. Committee members will be active for the next four months, participate in in-person monthly meetings, and assume leadership roles during the actual exercise to be scheduled. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to bring your field experiences and leadership to help develop DBH Volunteers understanding of our role in a disaster response; use communications to help manage resources and recovery efforts; and to build new partnerships with Maine mental/behavioral health providers in our community. Contact: Kathleen Wescott Kathleen.Wescott@maine.gov

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To download a complete copy with active links, please click on the image above.

Health Annual Training and Exercise
October 22, 2013
Maine Principals Association
For more information and to register online, click on the image above.

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